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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/812,638	03/29/2004	Mario Abdenmour	25669-014 CIP CON	3493
30623	7590	03/22/2006		
MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS, GLOVSKY AND POPEO, P.C. ONE FINANCIAL CENTER BOSTON, MA 02111			EXAMINER BUMGARNER, MELBA N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3732	

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/812,638

Applicant(s)

ABDENNOUR ET AL.

Examiner

Melba Bumgarner

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Terminal Disclaimer

1. The terminal disclaimer filed on July 26, 2005 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of US patent no. 6,712,610 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The specification does not describe a rigid polymer vehicle nor rigid polymer.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 21, and 22 are rejected as understood, under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Goodson (4,892,736). Goodson discloses a fiber comprising a polymer vehicle having incorporated therein one or more medicaments (column 3 line 30). Patentable weight is

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not given to the intended use of the fiber. It is noted that the fiber having the shape of a fiber having the size of a diameter of about 0.1 to about 1mm would be suitable for placement in a root canal. As to claims 2 and 3, the medicament is antibiotic of tetracycline (column 6 line 37). As to claim 5, Goodson shows a combination of antibiotic and anti-inflammatory agent (column 6 line 53). Goodson shows the fiber impregnated with the medicament (column 3 line 26).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 4 is rejected as understood, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodson in view of Damani (5,114,718). Goodson discloses a fiber that shows the limitations as described above and the polymer vehicle is an ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer (column 4 line 63) having a diameter of 0.1 to about 1 mm; however, Goodson does not show medicament of clindamycin. Damani teaches devices providing medicament of clindamycin (column 2 line 65) as well as tetracycline (column 2 line 64). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate medicament of clindamycin to the fiber of Goodson, since Damani discloses both as known antibiotics. As to the dose of antibiotic, Damani teaches steady state average concentrations of medicament of about 10 µg to 5000 µg per device.

8. Claims 7-14 and 23-26 are rejected as understood, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodson. Goodson discloses obtaining a fiber having one or more medicaments incorporated therein that is suitable for intracanal use, positioning the fiber such

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that the fiber is in direct contact with a treatment site, and maintaining the fiber at the treatment site, wherein the medicament is delivered to the treatment site at a controlled rate (column 2 line 56); however, Goodson does not show the step of the fiber in the root canal. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to do so, since one skilled in the art would recognize that the fiber of Goodson is of size and characteristics sufficient for positioning in a root canal and Goodson shows method of localized treatment within the oral cavity.

9. Claims 15-20 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodson in view of Hoyt et al. (4,003,810). Goodson discloses a fiber as described above and of ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer (column 4 line 63); however, Goodson does not show less than about 20% vinyl acetate. Hoyt et al. disclose a fiber (column 3 line 7) of ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer comprising 3 to 50 percent vinyl acetate. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art as to the specific amount of a known material; where the composition of the fiber is disclosed, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed January 9, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's specification does not define a rigid fiber or a rigid polymer, particularly the dictionary definition that the applicant has asserted, and the specification referring to an increase in rigidity does not imply an object being rigid. In fact the specification states otherwise, such as on page 8 "[t]he composition and glass transition temperature of the polymer can also be selected to confer surface characteristics and a level of rigidity required to accomplish the aseptic placement of the fiber within the root canal, and to facilitate the

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subsequent conformity of the fiber to the contours of the root canal.” It is understood to one of skill in the art that the level of rigidity above is not “stiff and hard” if it were to facilitate conformity of the fiber to the contours of the root canal. Also the specification states of intracanal fibers on page 17, “increase in rigidity similar to traditional gutta-percha points”. Gutta-percha is a natural resin, which is rubbery and points made of gutta-percha are not known to be “rigid”.

Conclusion

11. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Melba Bumgarner whose telephone number is 571-272-4709. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Shaver can be reached at 571-272-4720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Melba Bumgarner".

Melba Bumgarner
Primary Examiner